

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

October 21, 1980

WILLIAM J. SCOTT
ATTORNEY GENERAL

TO File

FROM Reed Neuman

SUBJECT Dead Creek: Interview with Mr. Erndle - ex-Cahokia
fire chief

/24/80

On 9/24/80, shortly after the Cahokia press conference, I spoke with a Mr. Erndle, an elderly gentleman who had at one time been the fire chief for the Village of Cahokia. He told me he has lived in the area here since about 1940, and has worked as a volunteer fireman since sometime around 1950.

I asked him about any incidents of fires in Dead Creek, and he said that occasionally he had been called out with the fire department team to put out fires in the creek. Some of these fires in the creek they had difficulty fighting. He knew that it was not trash or anything normal, and said that water was not really effective in putting them out, and that they had to fight them for a long time. The fires he was involved in were mainly located in that portion of Dead Creek just north of Judith Lane. He recalls that fires mostly occurred during periods of hot weather, in his estimation because of the combustibility of the dry weeds around the creek. Mr. Erndle remembers that perhaps 15 or so years ago, the creek itself used to have a much wider area devoid of vegetation than it does now.

Mr. Erndle apparently used to work for Mobil Oil, at its facility across from the Monsanto complex. He recalls one time maybe 15 to 20 years ago, in an area near Queeny Ave. west of Dead Creek, that someone had dumped some drums of materials on the ground, and that those drums had exploded, necessitating the fire department to come out and fight the blaze.

I asked him whether he knew anything about any dumps in the area of the Sauget Village Hall, which he remembered having been ~~built~~ around 1960 or so. He recalls that there

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